

Utah TBI Fund Advisory Committee

Person with TBI

Sandy Brooke

Sandy works as a social worker with Northeastern Services and helps individuals that are in desperate situations. She helps clients to connect with resources and services in the community. She did suffer a brain injury and was able to go through college to receive her degree after suffering her injury.

Troy Roper

Troy Roper sustained a TBI as a result of a serious motorcycle accident in Sept. 2005. After 2 years of rehabilitation Troy is currently; an advocate for the Center For The Blind and Visually Impaired, a member of CAT (the Committee on Accessible Transportation - UTA) and a member of the Legislative Coalition For People With Disabilities. Troy deals with several symptoms as a result of his TBI, cortical blindness being the most challenging. Troy is eager to contribute to those who have sustained a traumatic brain injury, even though his symptoms are challenging he has a wealth of personal experience and a tremendous amount of energy.

Family Member

Nita Smith

Nita is the Executive Director of Phoenix Services Corporation, a non-profit agency specializing in community re-entry services for people with brain injury and similar needs. She is also a parent of a brain injury survivor for more than 23 years.

She is certified by AACBIS (American Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists) as a Specialist and as a Trainer. Nita has participated in the development of TBI Foundation Training for state agencies, providers, and families. As such she has provided TBI Training to the following: DSPD staff, DSPD providers, Utah State Hospital staff, USOR rehabilitation counselors, Weber County Aging and Mental Health staff, Davis County and Washington County mental health providers, Valley Mental Health and Flexcare staff.

Nita was also a participant in the original design and revision of Utah's ABI Waiver for Medicaid funded services. She also serves as a member of Utah's TBI Grant Advisory Board.

Nita is a strong advocate for families and survivors of brain injury and has received the Brain Injury Association of Utah Outstanding Service Award.

Sarah Sanders

Sarah is a Behavioral Specialist and has a family member who suffered a severe brain injury from a bicycle accident. She has worked as a Brokering Service Specialist with DSPD. She is very knowledgeable and has a passion for working with the disabled community.

Kari Peterson

Kari has a son who has suffered a brain injury and has worked diligently in finding services and help for him. Kari has donated her time helping with our Being HeadSmart Program within the elementary schools giving presentations of education and awareness to the students. Kari works for McKay Dee Hospital and is a great advocate for individuals and knows first hand what a family goes through in the recovery process and the lack of services in the community.

Association Advocate

Ron S. Roskos

Ron is in his fourteenth-year as the Executive Director of the Brain Injury Association of Utah (BIAU), and served on numerous Boards and Committees throughout his tenure at the association. He developed the Return to Work Program for individuals with brain injuries, and the Being HeadSmart School Program that have been successful in its use since their inception. The Return to Work Program has been duplicated in four states where the Brain Injury Association's exist. Prior to his employment at the BIAU, he was an Operation's Manager for a local transportation company for six-years that included coordinating services with the national company and supervising over twenty-employees.

Adina Zahradnikova

Adina oversees the TBI Program at the Disability Law Center and is a great advocate for people with brain injuries. She also serves on the TBI Grant Committee and is known for her fairness in her judgment as well as decisions.

Specialist

Breanne Berg

Breanne was a Support Coordinator for DSPD about six-years ago. She had two clients that were in the BIAU Return to Work Program and she took special interest and care for these individuals. The compassion she has for this population is phenomenal. She became the Program Director for the TBI Grant for a short time, but her passion was to work for and in behalf of the disable community, especially those with brain injuries. Breanne is now working for North Eastern Services, and would be an excellent choice; she is very organized and would bring to the table a dedicated person with the passion to see services be properly administrated to those she serves. Breanne is a newly appointed member of the Board of Directors of BIAU

Elaine Pollock

Elaine has worked at Primary Children's Medical Center for many years. She has a tremendous knowledge of brain injuries and her background is an Educational Specialist. Elaine is an excellent communicator and has a great knowledge of the services needed in this state while being a very dedicated advocate for brain injury.